

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

AUGUST 4, 1842.

Ordered to be printed.—To accompany bill H. R. 254.

Mr. BATES submitted the following

REPORT :

*The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the House bill (254) for the relief of John Keith, report :*

That the petitioner asks for a pension for revolutionary services. He states that he performed twenty-three months service as a private, and nine as a sergeant. There is no direct proof, and the corroborative ill sustained. This, too, appears to have been intended originally to support a claim under the act of March 18, 1818, and has been appended to his application under the act of June 7, 1832. William Randall's deposition, dated September 10, 1823, sets forth that he saw John Keith in the service, and saw him after his discharge and return home; that he lived in the same town where he resided, —the town of Eastown, in the State of Massachusetts. The justice of the peace before whom this witness testifies certifies that he thinks Randall a credible witness. Thomas Keith, who alleges he was a neighbor, but is not a relative of the petitioner, deposes that John Keith went into the service of the United States as a soldier in 1775, in company with Freeman Keith, a brother of deponent, who was brought home sick and died. The character of this witness is deemed to be good by the judge of Madison county court. Silas Kinsley deposes to three months' service near Boston in 1776.

The certificate of the Secretary of State of Massachusetts establishes but one day's service of John Keith in Captain Isaac Hodge's company, Colonel Francis's regiment in November, 1776, and declares that the rolls of other companies named by Keith are not in the secretary's office. The petitioner has had the benefit of a thorough examination of the records at the War Department without being able to produce additional evidence. The proof is deemed not sufficient to entitle him to a pension. The committee, therefore recommend that the bill be rejected.

Thomas Allen, print.

